

Clinical Oral Medicine and Pathology (2nd edn)

Jean M Bruch, Nathaniel S Treister
Springer 2017

Price £66.99. Pp 207

ISBN 978 3 319 29765 1

The authors aim to provide a concise yet comprehensive approach to managing oral medicine conditions for a variety of health-care providers who are likely to encounter these regularly. The authors both have experience in areas of medicine and/or dentistry relevant to oral diseases.

The book is well structured with good flow from one chapter to the next. Each chapter is well laid-out with clear headings and illustrated text to help with diagnosis and management of oral medicine-related conditions. Concise descriptions of each condition provide background information and treatment recommendations with useful summary tables for quick reference. Each chapter includes a reference list for additional reading if required.

Details are clearly presented for each condition with multiple clinical photographs supporting the text, although the resolution of some clinical photographs could be better. The information is not exhaustive but a useful summary and will benefit those not seeing these conditions on a daily basis.

Prescribing guidelines discussed in the book very much relate to an American population as some of the medications highlighted are not available in the UK.

The overall aim of providing a concise textbook useful for a wide range of practitioners is generally achieved and this would be a useful resource for any health-care professional seeing patients with oral disease. The organization of chapters is commendable, and the text is easy to read, presenting relevant information clearly and supported by relevant clinical images.

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Hypertension and Cardiovascular Disease

Edited by Emmanuel A Andreadis
Oxford University Press 2016

Price £117.00. Pp 385

ISBN 978 3 319 39597 5

This book is packed with information about blood pressure but tries to encompass the effects of hypertension on the whole spectrum of cardiovascular disease. It ranges from a clear introduction to the global problem of hypertension with very reader-friendly maps and charts, through to far more detailed areas of the subject.

It is not a book for the everyday physician dealing with hypertension – there is very little guidance on disease management and almost nothing concerning the investigation of secondary hypertension. Some clarity would have been of great help in this area as it encompasses cardiology, renal and endocrine aspects of hypertension, to name a few. It is not until page 371 of a 378-page book that one comes across guidelines and the suggested drug classes to use.

From a practicing general medical and cardiologist's perspective, chapter 6 contained an interesting discussion

around the impact of hypertensive medications and their potential to regress left ventricular hypertrophy. In chapter 15, I was intrigued and a little perturbed to read that some antihypertensives actually elevate blood pressure, these effects being determined by the patient's renin status. Clearly not a book for everyday use, more a reference for those with a specific interest in hypertension.

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Neurologic Disease: a Modern Pathophysiologic Approach to Diagnosis and Treatment

Michael A Meyer

Springer 2016

Price £66.99. Pp 260

ISBN 978 3 319 39579 1

Neurology is sometimes perceived as a daunting subject for students, indeed sometimes provoking neurophobia, so a 'book ... intended to train the next generation of physicians' (p. vi) which claims to expound a 'modern pathophysiologic approach to diagnosis and treatment' may be in order.

The subject matter is variously ordered by diagnosis, anatomy and aetiology. Each chapter takes the form of a brief exposition, emphasizing disease pathophysiology where known, followed by case studies and supplemented with selected references. The text is richly illustrated in colour throughout. In the competitive market of neurological texts, sadly I found it a disappointing read.

Although the visually minded may be inspired by the many illustrations, I found many garish in their colouring and inadequately labelled (imaging abnormalities may not be obvious to the uninitiated), and was disappointed that many images were accessed from Wikipedia. There also seemed to be a particular emphasis on positron emission tomography imaging, not widely available in the UK, whereas neurological history taking and examination, surely key skills in neurological training, are almost eschewed. In places the text was repetitive and the authorial style seems often to elide two separate sentences into one. Careful editing, copy-editing and proof-reading would surely have improved matters.

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